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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/652,932	LEEVEY ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Douglas D. Watts	3724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,6 and 7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

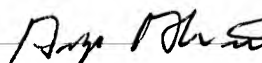
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>8/3/04</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


DOUGLAS D. WATTS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mrs. Leever on Aug. 2, 2004.

The amend is as follows:

Delete claims 1, 3, 4.

In line 1 of claims 2, 6 change "1" to -7-.

Add the following new claim:

7. A cutting guide, having two longitudinal edges, two ends and an upper and lower surface and adapted to aid in cutting a sheet of material, said guide consisting of rigid material, having a thin thickness at one of its longitudinal edges but increasing to a greater thickness at the other longitudinal edge, a cutting groove disposed longitudinally in the top of the thicker material, and a connecting device for immovably fastening plural guides together, said fastening device consisting of an eyelet extending from an end of the guide and a depression at the other end of the guide in the bottom of the guide, said depression having a post therein which does not protrude from beyond the bottom surface of the guide, said post coupling with the eyelet of another guide to immovably couple them together.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the independent claim as now drafted specified the particular design of each individual guide including the taper, the guide groove, and the connection means that allows for the extension of the tool by adding more individual units. The connection means prevents any relative pivoting between units and further allows the units to be stored by hanging them from a pin inserted through the eyelets of the connectors. Newly cited art (5,404,778) shows an individual unit with a taper and a groove but no connectors. The unit can shift, but does not extend. Patent 5,079,842 shows a grooved unit with holes for dowels that may attach adjacent units to extend the device. Applicant's claims define over this arrangement since they specifically call for an eyelet and post in a depression. As pointed out above this has the added advantage of storage for the pieces. Further no separate dowels are needed. The claims thus are considered to define over the art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas D. Watts whose telephone number is (703) 308-0153. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs..

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allen Shoap can be reached on (703) 308-1082. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DDW
8/2/04



DOUGLAS D. WATTS
PRIMARY EXAMINER